

Skandia Township Blight Ordinance

An ordinance to prevent, reduce, or eliminate blight, blighting factors or causes of blight within Skandia Township, Marquette County, Michigan; to provide for the enforcement thereof; and to provide penalties for the violation hereof. Pursuant to the enacting authority therefore provided by Act 344 of the Public Acts of 1945 as amended.

The Township of Skandia, Marquette County, Michigan, ordains:

Section I

Purpose

Consistent with the letter and spirit of Act No. 344 of the Public Acts of 1945 as amended, it is the purpose of this ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or potential blight in Skandia Township by the prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or blighting factors which exist or which may in the future exist in said Township.

Section II

Definitions

- A. Abandoned vehicles shall include, without limitation, any vehicle which has remained on private property for a period of 48 continuous hours or more with consent of the owner or occupant of the property, or for a period of 48 continuous hours or more after the consent of the owner or occupant of the property has been revoked (see Michigan P.A. 495 of 2004) and any vehicle, regardless of ownership, inoperable due to damage, collision, deterioration or having had parts removed and which is currently not licensed for use upon the highways of the State of Michigan.
- B. Garbage shall include, without limitation, rejected food waste including waste accumulation of animal, fruit or vegetable matter used or intended for food or that attend the preparation use in cooking, dealing in or storing of meat, fish, fowl, fruits, or vegetables.
- C. Junk shall include, without limitation, broken or unusable furniture, parts of machinery or motor vehicles, refrigerators, stoves, or other appliances, metal or any other cast-off building materials and remnants of wood not normally used or intended to be used as firewood in a residence or any accessory structure. Metal, parts of machinery and machinery not

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used for the repair or construction of utility trailers, wood working equipment, farm machinery, logging equipment, vehicles used to plow snow and recreational vehicles. Recreational vehicles stored in the Township of Skandia shall be operable and able to be licensed for use on highways in the State of Michigan.

- D. Refuse shall include, without limitation, all solid waste and includes garbage, rubbish, ashes, incinerator ash, incinerator residue, street sweepings, and solid marked and industrial waste, medical waste of any type and all types of soils contaminated by industry or commerce and other similar substances.
- E. Blighted structures shall include, without limitation, any building or structure which because of fire, wind, storm, disrepair or other natural disaster is no longer habitable or cannot be used for any other purpose of which it was originally intended or if such structures pose a risk to public health or safety.
- F. Person shall include any individual, proprietorship, firm, public or private corporation, partnership, trust, public or private agency, or any other entity, or any group of such persons.

Section III

Junk, Garbage, Refuse, and Abandoned Vehicle Violations

It is a violation of this ordinance for any person to store or accumulate any junk refuse, garbage, or abandoned vehicles on any private property in Skandia Township. Domestic garbage may be stored in a safe manner not to exceed fifteen (15) days. A property owner in the Township of Skandia may maintain up to four (4) unlicensed vehicles on the owner's property to be used for restoration or for later repair.

Section IV

Blighted Structures

It is a violation of this ordinance for any person to keep a structure in Skandia Township which, because of fire, wind, storm, disrepair or other natural disaster is no longer habitable nor useful for any other purpose of which it may have been originally intended.

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Section V

Manner of Making a Complaint

Any resident or landowner of Skandia Township may make a complaint concerning properties and/or individuals that are acting in violation of this ordinance. To make a complaint, the following steps must be followed:

1. The complaint must be made in writing and contain the date, name, and address of the complainant.
2. The complaint must specify the individual and/or properties that are in alleged violation of this ordinance, as well as the date(s) of the alleged violation.
3. The complaint must specify the type of blight that is the subject of the violation.
4. The complaint must be made to the Skandia Township Board in writing, by mail or at a regularly scheduled meeting, specifying the information listed above.

Section VI

Notice, Enforcement and Penalties

- A. Skandia Township Board is responsible for enforcing this ordinance.
- B. If the Board finds that a violation of this ordinance exists, it shall notify the owner and/or occupant in writing to remove or eliminate such blight from the property within Ninety (90) days after service of the notice. Such notice shall be given by certified mail with return receipt requested. A copy of this notice shall be sent to the Skandia Township legal counsel.
- C. Failure to comply with such notice within the time allowed shall constitute a violation of this ordinance, subjecting the owner and/or occupant to criminal prosecution.
- D. Violation of this ordinance shall be a civil infraction, which shall be punishable upon conviction thereof by a fine not exceeding \$500.00, plus all associated court costs, enforcement costs, and restitution for removal of said blight.

Section VII

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Saving Clauses

Should any section, clause or provision of this ordinance be declared by any court to be invalid, remaining portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section VIII

Effective Date and Adoption

This ordinance shall become effective Thirty (30) days after its publication as required by law.